

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01220 091329Z
ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, GY
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION COMMENTS ON NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE VISIT

REF: GEORGETOWN 1015

SUMMARY: IN THE PRESS OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE
PARTY (PPP) AND LEFTIST WORKING PEOPLE'S VANGUARD
PARTY (WPVP) HAVE DESCRIBED NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE (NWC)
VISIT AS EVIDENCE OF REVERSAL IN US-GOG RELATIONS,
IMPLICATIONS OF WHICH SHOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED.
PPP CRITICIZED EXISTING AND POSSIBLE NEW MILITARY
LINKS BETWEEN US AND GUYANA AS A THREAT TO SOVEREIGNTY.
THIS LINE OF CRITICISM, WHICH ALLEGES THAT IF GUYANA
DRAWS TOO CLOSE TO US IT WILL BECOME NEO-COLONIAL
STATE, WILL BE CONSTANT SENSITIVE INTERNAL POLITICAL
FACTOR AS GOG MOVES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US. TO
DATE GOG HAS NOT SEEMED UNDULY WORRIED ABOUT THE
CRITICISM.

1. NOTING THAT NWC TEAM COMPOSED OF FOUR MEMBERS OF
ARMED FORCES AND ONE USAID REPRESENTATIVE HAD HELD
DISCUSSIONS WITH GUYANESE MILITARY LEADERS, PPP
MIRROR EDITORIAL OF MAY 18 ASKED IF GOG WAS AGAIN
SEEKING MILITARY AID FROM US. EDITORIAL POINTEDLY
SUGGESTED THAT IN VIEW OF GOG PROPAGANDA DURING PAST
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TWO YEARS ABOUT DESTABILIZATION BY US THROUGH BORDER
NATION, NWC VISIT WAS INDICATION OF SUDDEN REVERSAL
IN US-GOG RELATIONS AND PORTENDED MORE THAN WAS
APPARENT. THE EDITORIAL CHARGED THAT AS RESULT OF NWC
VISIT, US HAD ESTABLISHED NEW LINKS WITH GUYANA'S DEFENSE
FORCES, AND EXISTING TIMEHRI BASE AGREEMENT WITH US WAS DETRI-
MENTAL TO GUYANA'S INDEPENDENCE. MIRROR CALLED ON

GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN IMPLICATIONS OF MYSTERIOUS NWC
VISIT.

2. AN ITEM IN WPVP NEWSHEET OF MAY 22 REITERATED PPP
ALLEGATION THAT NWC VISIT INDICATED PRIME MINISTER
BURNHAM WAS REVERSING PREVIOUS POLICY AND MOVING BACK
TOWARDS US. THE NEWSHEET DESCRIBED AS NONSENSE A
BRIEF CHRONICLE ARTICLE OF MAY 14 LABELLING NWC VISIT
ROUTINE. ACCORDING TO WPVP, VISIT HAD STEMMED FROM
FONMIN WILLS REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DURING
HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND TEAM
MAY HAVE COME TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF CHINESE, CUBAN
AND SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL HERE PRIOR TO DECISION ON
AID. BECAUSE PM BURNHAM NEEDED ASSISTANCE, HE BOWED
TO US DEMAND FOR VISIT. CONCLUSION OF THIS ANALYSIS
WAS QUOTE TO HOLD HIS POSITION BURNHAM THEREFORE
MUST PIROUETTE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE US UNQUOTE.
WHAT, HOWEVER, WOULD THE GOG BE REQUIRED TO DO TO
GAIN APPROBATION OF US?

3. COMMENT: THIS LINE OF CRITICISM BY LEFTIST
OPPOSITION, WHICH ACCUSES BURNHAM OF SACRIFICING HIS
SOCIALIST AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST PRINCIPLES FOR US
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, WILL BE FACTOR IN
PARTY POLITICS ESPECIALLY AS ELECTION CAMPAIGN GAINS
MOMENTUM. AS GOG-US RELATIONS IMPROVE, BURNHAM PROBABLY
WILL FEEL CONSTRAINED TO PERIODICALLY SHOW THAT HIS
COMMITMENT TO SOCIALISM AND INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION
HAVE NOT BEEN COMPROMISED. THE ATTACKS ON BURNHAM
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FOR ALLEGED COMPLICITY WITH US IN PAST--WHICH
APPEARED AT TIME OF REVELATIONS OF CIA PAYMENTS TO
PROMINENT NATIONAL LEADERS--WILL RESURFACE. TO DATE,
GOG LEADERS HAVE NOT APPEARED WORRIED BY THE OPPOSITION'S
CRITICISM OF THE IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE US.
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